

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 01235 231755Z

44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-11 L-03

ACDA-19 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-03 NSC-07 SS-20 IO-14 CAB-09

COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-11 FAA-00 SAM-01 DRC-01 /157 W

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P 231641Z JUL 74

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3697

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSUL ZURICH

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1235

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV PFOR ETRN WB GE GW

SUBJECT: NEW SOVIET DEMARCHE ON BERLIN
INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

REF: A) BONN 10564 (NOTAL) B) VIENNA 6446 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: SOVIETS DELIVERED JULY 22 NEW STATEMENT
OBJECTING TO ALLIED PLANS TO OFFER WEST BERLIN EXPANDED
INTERNATIONAL AIR SERVICES AND CLAIMING QA LIMITS EXERCISE
OF ALLIED AIR CORRIDOR RIGHTS. MISSION BELIEVES IT WOULD BE
DESIRABLE FOR ALLIED TO REAFFIRM PROMPTLY ALLIED RIGHTS. END SUMMARY.

2. SOVIET POLITICAL COUNSELOR RODIN CALLED ON CHAIRMAN
POLAD (UK) JULY 22 TO DELIVER FOLLOWING ORAL STATEMENT:
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PAGE 02 BERLIN 01235 231755Z

"IN CONNECTION WITH THE COMMUNICATION OF THE AMERICAN

(BRITISH, FRENCH) SIDE OF 11 JULY, I AM INSTRUCTED TO AGAIN CONFIRM THE POINT OF VIEW EXPRESSED IN OUR COMMUNICATION OF 24 JUNE.

"THE SOVIET SIDE WILL CONSIDER ATTEMPTS TO ESTABLISH NEW DIRECT AIR SERVICES BETWEEN THE WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN AND OTHER STATES AS A VIOLATION OF THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT OF SEPTEMBER 3, 1971, IN EFFECT AIMED AT A UNILATERAL CHANGE IN THE SITUATION IN THE AREA. CORRESPONDING FLIGHTS ON SUCH SERVICES WILL BE CONSIDERED ILLEGAL WITH ALL THE CONSEQUENCES ENSUING THEREFROM.

" THE SOVIET SIDE HOPES THAT THE UNITED STATES (BRITISH, FRENCH) AUTHORITIES WILL MOST SERIOUSLY WEIGHT THESE CONSIDERATIONS."

3. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION RODIN BRISHED ASIDE AS IRRELEVANT BRITISH POLAD'S REFERENCE TO PREVIOUS REITERATIONS OF ALLIED POSITION ON UNFETTERED USE OF CORRIDORS BY ALLIED AIRCRAFT, INCLUDING 1961 EXCHANGE OF NOTES. RODIN MADE IT CLEAR, ACCORDING TO BRITISH POLAD, THAT SOVIETS WERE TAKING POSITION THAT QA ALSO COVERED AIR MATTERS AND THAT THESE COULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO UNILATERAL CHANGES.

4. IN OUR VIEW THIS LATEST DEMARCHE STILL ANOTHER SOVIET EFFORT TO REINTERPRET QA UNILATERALLY TO THEIR ADVANTAGE. FACT IS QA NEGOTIATORS EXPLICITLY AGREED THAT AIR MATTERS WERE NOT SUBJECT FOR NEGOTIATION. STATEMENT IN PARAGRAPH 4, PART I OF QA, THEREFORE, THAT SITUATION IN AREA SHALL NOT BE CHANGED UNILATERALLY COULD AT MOST BE RELEVANT FOR AIR MATTERS IN SENSE ONLY THAT SOVIETS CAN NOT UNILATERALLY INTERFERE WITH ESTABLISHED ALLIED PRACTICE OF UTILIZING AIR CORRIDORS BY THEIR CIVILIAN COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT AS THEY DEEM APPROPRIATE. BEA AND AIR FRANCE HAVE FOR AMANY YEARS BEEN FLYING DIRECT BETWEEN WEST BERLIN AND POINTS OUTSIDE FRG (LONDON AND PARIS). PAN AM HAS BEEN FLYING DIRECT BETWEEN WEST BERLIN AND AMSTERDAM FOR MORE THAN YEAR WITHOUT SOVIETS ALLEGING THAT SUCH FLIGHTS VIOLATED QA OR TAKING ACTION OTHER THAN FORMAL REFUSAL TO GUARANTEE SAFETY OF FLIGHTS IN BASC. MOREOVER, ALLIED CHARTER AIRLINES OPERATE INNUMBERABLE DIRECT FLIGHTS
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PAGE 03 BERLIN 01235 231755Z

TO EUROPEAN CITIES. NEW TACTIC PRESUMABLY CAN BE ATTRIBUTED IN PART TO SOVIET WILLINGNESS TO ACCOMMODATE GDR DESIRE TO STIFLE WEST BERLIN CIVIL AVIATION FOR BENEFIT OF SCHONEFELD AND TO REINTERPRET QA TO RESTRICT WEST BERLIN'S NORMAL GROWTH. IN LONGER TERM, TACTIC PROBABLY NOT UNRELATED TO SOVIET DESIRE TO RENEGOTIATE AIR CORRIDORS. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF VITAL IMPORTANCE OF BERLIN'S AIR SERVICES AND GIVEN UNFORTUNATE EXPERIENCE WITH FEA EXERCISE, WE CONSIDER IT ESSENTIAL

FOR ALLIES TO AGREE TO PROMPT, BRIEF AND FIRM REBUTTAL
OF SOVIET DEMARCHE SO THAT ISSUE CAN BE CAUTERIZED BEFORE SOVIETS
SENSE OPPORTUNITY (AS THEY DID IN CASE OF FEA) TO ENGAGE ALLIES
IN LONG DEBILITATING DEBATE.

5. AN ALLIED RESPONSE MIGHT BE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

"I HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO REFER AGAIN TO THE
ALLIED COMMUNICATION OF 11 JULY. THE ALLIED AUTHORITIES WILL
CONTINUE TO EXPECT THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO FULFILL THEIR
OBLIGATIONS WITH RESPECT TO FLIGHTS OF THEIR AIRCRAFT IN THE
BERLIN CONTROL ZONE AND THROUGH THE AIR CORRIDORS IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE RELEVANT FOUR POWER AGREEMENTS. IN
THIS CONNECTION THE ALLIED AUTHORITIES NOTE THAT THEY HAVE
CONSISTENTLY MADE KNOWN THEIR VIEWS. THEIR AIRCRAFT HAVE
CONSISTENTLY EXERCISED THE RELEVANT RIGHTS BOTH BEFORE AND
AFTER CONCLUSION OF THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT OF SEPTEMBER 3,
1971 WHICH CAN IN NO WAY BE DEEMED TO AFFECT THOSE RIGHTS."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEMARCHE, BERLIN AIR ACCESS, AIR SCHEDULES, BERLIN QUADRIpartite MATTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BERLIN01235
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740199-0210
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740727/aaaaawlh.tel
Line Count: 134
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) BONN 10564 (NOTAL) B) VIENNA 6446
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 MAR 2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <13 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW SOVIET DEMARCHE ON BERLIN INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, ETRN, WB, GC, GE, UR
To: BONN
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005